

# Upon the snow-clad earth

Sir Arthur Sullivan  
(1842-1900)

1. Up - on the snow-clad earth\_ with- out, The stars are shin - ing\_ bright, As  
2. Twas in the days when far\_ and\_ wide Men owned the Cae - sar's\_ sway, That

Heav'n\_ had\_ hung out all\_ her\_ lamps To hail the\_ fes - tal night; For  
his\_ de- cree went forth, that\_ all A cer- tain\_ tax should pay. Then

on this night long years\_ a\_ go The Bless - ed babe was born, The\_  
from tiieir home in Na - za-reth's\_ vale, O - be - dient to the same, With\_

saints\_ of old were\_ wont\_ to keep Their\_ vi\_ gil\_ un\_ til morn.  
Ma- ry his es\_ pous\_ ed wife, The\_ saint- ly Jo- seph came.

3. A stable and a manger, where  
The oxen lowed around  
Was all the shelter Bethlehem gave,  
The welcome that they found!  
Yet blessed among women was  
That holy mother maid  
Who on that night her first-born Son  
There in the manger laid.

4. The King of kings, and Lord of lords,  
E'en from His very birth,  
Had not a place to lay His head,  
An outcast in the earth:  
And yet we know that little Babe  
Was tender to the touch,  
And weak as other infants are;  
He felt the cold as much!

5. In swaddling bands she wrapped Him round,  
And smoothed His couch of straw,  
While unseen Angels watched beside,  
In mute, adoring awe.  
How softly did they fold their wings  
Beneath that star-lit shed,  
While eastern sages from afar  
The new-born radiance led!

6. And thus it is, from age to age,  
That as this night comes round,  
So sweetly, underneath the moon,  
The Christmas carols sound.  
Because to us a Child is born,  
Our Brother and our King,  
Angels in Heaven, and we on earth,  
Our joyful anthems sing.